

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
UTILITY DIVISION
AGENDA NO. 03-09-23**

Date Published: September 18, 2003

For Work Week Commencing: September 22, 2003

Commission Meeting: September 23, 2003, 9:00 a.m.

General Introduction This agenda is the Commission's Utility Division agenda for the work week designated. In the later part of each week (generally, Thursday by 2:00 p.m.) prior to the work week to which an agenda pertains, the agenda is posted on the public information bulletin board at the Commission offices, deposited in the mail directed to all persons who have properly requested notice by mail, emailed to all persons who have properly requested notice by email, and posted to the Public Service Commission's worldwide web site located at <http://www.psc.state.mt.us>.

Place of Meetings All meetings are held at the Commission offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana, unless otherwise noted.

Inquiries General inquiries concerning this Utility Division agenda and subscribing to notice by mail may be made to Steve Vick at (406) 444-6187. He may refer inquiries to another person within the agency.

Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities Anyone needing an accommodation for physical, hearing, or sight impairment in order to attend a scheduled meeting should contact the Commission secretary at (406) 444-6199 sufficiently prior to the meeting to allow accommodations to be made.

9:00 a.m. Weekly Scheduling (Commission Conference Room)

9:30 a.m. Business (Bollinger Room)

Public Comments

Action Items All items identified below are for action at the Commission business meeting.

1. Approval of Commission Minutes (Kate)

Approval of the Commission Minutes for the week of September 15, 2003.

2. NORTHWESTERN ENERGY DOCKET NO. D97.11.219 (Eric)

On September 9, 2003, NWE filed its ninth semi-annual true-up Advice Letter pursuant to Order No. 6035a. This filing is made by NWE in its role as servicer of the Natural Gas Transition Bonds. If the previous six-month period variance between the scheduled debt service and the actual amounts available to satisfy the scheduled debt service for such period exceeds 2 percent NWE is required to apply for adjustment to the Fixed Transition

Amount (FTA) charges. The variance for the period was an overcollection of 8.77 percent or \$336,933. The variance was a result of higher actual collections versus the prior estimated collections. The new decreased FTA rates include the overcollection. Staff recommends that the changes in the FTA charges be approved effective October 1, 2003.

3. YELLOWSTONE PIPELINE D2003.9.128 (JOEL)

On September 4, 2003, Yellowstone Pipeline Co. filed an application to decrease rates by 20% of the 53% increase granted to cover increased power costs in March of 2001. Yellowstone has requested an October 1, 2003 effective date. Staff recommends approval.

4. Qwest Communications Docket No. N2003.9.127 (Scott)

On September 3, 2003, Qwest filed tariff transmittal 03-33, Grandfather SWITCHNET 56. The purpose of this filing is to discontinue offering SWITCHNET 56 service to new customers and to grandfather existing SWITCHNET 56 customers.

Work Sessions All items identified below are for Commission discussion or action on the day designated.

1. D2002.11.145 – Northern Telephone Cooperative Association, Inc. – EAS Petition. (9/23/03)
2. D2003.8.109 – PSC / Montana Consumer Counsel / NorthWestern Energy – Investigation of NorthWestern Energy. (9/23/03)
3. NorthWestern Energy – Discuss Any Matter Related to Bankruptcy. (9/23/03)

Other Meetings

Weekly Scheduling – Will be held at 9:00 a.m. on the day of the Commission Meeting

9/26/03 – 9:00 a.m. – Governor's Task Force (Room 102)

Notice Items All items identified below are noticed for public participation purposes. Unless otherwise stated in the text of the notice, the items will be action items on the next following agenda or a subsequent agenda and participation may be had by submitting written comments to the Public Service Commission, 1701 Prospect Avenue, P.O. Box 202601, Helena, Montana, 59620-2601, within 5 calendar days following publication of this agenda. Public comments on a noticed matter may also be submitted within the required time through the PSC's web-based comment form at <http://psc.state.mt.us/PublicComment/PublicComment.htm>. Comments should reference the docket number of the matter.

1. Qwest Communications Docket No. N2003.9.134 (Scott)

On September 15, 2003, Qwest filed tariff transmittal 03-24, ISDN Single Line Service (SLS) Promotion. During the proposed promotional period from October 20, 2003, through December 31, 2003, customers subscribing to ISDN SLS under a one, two, three, or five-year rate stability agreement would receive a \$100 credit for all new lines. Existing customers on month-to-month service would receive a \$50 credit by migrating to one of the stability agreements. In addition nonrecurring charges would be waived on all new lines for month-to month and one, two, three, or five-year rate stability agreements. This promotion is only available where it is technically feasible to provide service and where facilities are available.

Information Items All items identified below are for information only.

New Filings Received in Past Week

D2003.9.132 – Montana – Dakota Utilities Co. - Application to Implement a Gas Cost Tracking Adjustment Change
D2003.9.133 – Qwest and Sofast Internet Services - Interconnection Agreement
N2003.9.134 – Qwest - Tariff Transmittal 03-24 - Single Line Service Promotion
D2003.9.135 – Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. – Biennial Filing of Electric Integrated Resource Plan